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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to
Update the California Universal
Telephone Service (California LifeLine)
Program.

Rulemaking 20-02-008

**E-MAIL RULING EXTENDING THE SUSPENSION
OF CERTAIN PROCESSES AND RULES**

Dated February 25, 2021, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ STEPHANIE S. WANG

Stephanie S. Wang
Administrative Law Judge

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Subject: R.20-02-008 (California LifeLine): Ruling extending the suspension of certain processes and rules

Parties to R.20-02-008:

This ruling extends the temporary suspension of the certain processes and rules for the California Universal Telephone Service Program (California Lifeline or Program).

In Decision (D.) 20-05-043, the Commission ratified the temporary suspension of the Program renewal process, effective March 19, 2020 and continuing for 90 days thereafter to provide continued access to the Program during the COVID-19 pandemic. D.20-05-043 authorized the assigned Commissioner or the assigned Administrative Law Judge to issue a ruling to extend the suspension of the Program renewal process for so long as the renewal processes of other state public assistance programs remain suspended, or for so long as the federal Lifeline program renewal process is suspended. D.20-05-043 also authorized the assigned Commissioner or the assigned Administrative Law Judge to issue a ruling to suspend de-enrollments for non-usage and other Program enrollment rules for so long as the federal Lifeline program suspends such rule.

On February 24, 2021, the Federal Communications Commission issued Order DA 21-229, which extends through June 30, 2021 the suspension of the federal Lifeline program's renewal process and waiver of the requirement that consumers seeking to demonstrate income-based qualification for the federal Lifeline program must provide at least three consecutive months of documentation to confirm their income. Order DA 21-229 also continues through May 1, 2021 the suspension of the federal Lifeline program's de-enrollments for non-usage rule, but declines to further extend the suspension of de-enrollments for non-usage.

I hereby extend the temporary suspension of Program de-enrollments for non-usage through April 30, 2021 and extend the temporary suspension of the Program renewal process and the three-month documentation rule through June 30, 2021.

Therefore, by May 1, 2021, Program providers must send notice to participants who have not used their service in the previous 30 days, that these participants have 15 days to cure their non-usage or they will be removed from the Program effective May 16, 2021.

The Commission's docket office shall file this ruling.

Stephanie Wang

Administrative Law Judge

California Public Utilities Commission

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